

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Unamended) A certification system comprising:
a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information;

5 and

a certification apparatus including certification means for certifying whether or not each of said storage devices is an authorized device authorized to use components mounted on a vehicle, and in which

10 said storage devices includes an authorized storage device to be certified as being said authorized device, and a master storage device to be used to certify said authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

said certification apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices,

15 storage means for storing therein information, and
storage control means for controlling said storage means,

said certification means is operative to certify whether or not each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

20 said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device is not said authorized device under the condition that said storage means has already stored therein said identification information of said authorized storage device, and

25 said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device.

2. (Amended) A certification system comprising:
a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information;

30 and

a certification apparatus including certification means for certifying whether or not each of said storage devices is an authorized device authorized to use components mounted on a vehicle, and in which

35 said storage devices includes first and second authorized storage devices each to be certified as being said authorized device, and a master storage device to be used to certify said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

said certification apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices,

storage means for storing therein information, and

storage control means for controlling said storage means,

5 said certification means is operative to certify whether or not each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

10 said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device is not said authorized device under the condition that said storage means has already stored therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means,

15 said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device, and

20 said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

25 3. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which components mounted on said vehicle which said first authorized storage device are to be authorized to use include one or more components mounted on said vehicle other than components mounted on said vehicle which said second authorized storage device are to be authorized to use.

30 4. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said second authorized storage device therefrom only under the condition that said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

35 5. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said first authorized storage device therefrom only under the condition that said storage means has not stored therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device and said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

6. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said first authorized storage device therefrom only under the condition that said storage means has not stored therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device and said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device, and said master storage device becomes said authorized device when said storage control means controls said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said first authorized storage device therefrom.

7. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 1, in which

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means delete said identification information of said authorized storage device only under the condition that said certification means certifies said authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

8. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting said identification information to be stored in said storage means to the exterior thereof when said identification information is stored in said storage means.

9. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in any one of claim 4 through claim 7, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting said identification information to be deleted from said storage means to the exterior thereof when said identification information is deleted from the storage means.

10. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 1, in which

said authorized storage device is constituted by a driving license.

11. (Amended) A certification system as set forth in claim 2, in which
at least one of said first authorized storage device and said second authorized
storage device is constituted by a driving license.

5 12. (Amended) A certification method comprising the steps of:
a certification step of certifying whether or not each of a plurality of storage
devices each storing therein identification information is an authorized device
authorized to use components mounted on a vehicle,
an obtaining step of obtaining said identification information stored in each of
10 said storage devices,
a storage step of storing information, and
a storage control step of controlling said storage step of storing said
information, and in which
said storage devices includes an authorized storage device to be certified as
15 being said authorized device, and a master storage device to be used to certify said
authorized storage device as being said authorized device,
said certification step has a step of certifying whether or not each of said
storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information
of each of said storage devices obtained in said obtaining step and said information
20 stored in said storage step,
said certification step has a step of certifying that said master storage device is
not said authorized device under the condition that said identification information of
said authorized storage device has already been stored in said storage step, and
said storage control step has a step of controlling said storage step to have said
25 storage step has a step of storing said identification information of said authorized
storage device obtained in said obtaining step only under the condition that said
certification step has a step of certifying said master storage device as being said
authorized device.

30 13. (Amended) A certification method comprising the steps of:
a certification step of certifying whether or not each of a plurality of storage
devices each storing therein identification information is an authorized device
authorized to use components mounted on a vehicle,
an obtaining step of obtaining said identification information stored in each of
35 said storage devices,
a storage step of storing information, and

storage control step of controlling said storage step, and in which

said storage devices includes first and second authorized storage devices each to be certified as being said authorized device, and a master storage device to be used to certify said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

5 said certification step has a step of certifying whether or not each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained in said obtaining step and said information stored in said storage step,

10 said certification step has a step of certifying that said master storage device is not said authorized device under the condition that said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained in said obtaining step is already stored in said storage step,

15 said storage control step has a step of controlling said storage step to have said storage step has a step of storing said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained in said obtaining step only under the condition that said certification step has a step of certifying said master storage device as being said authorized device, and

20 said storage control step has a step of controlling said storage step to have a step of storing therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device obtained in said obtaining step only under the condition that said certification step has a step of certifying said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device.

14. (Amended) A certification apparatus comprising:

25 certification means for certifying whether or not each of a plurality of storage devices each storing therein identification information is an authorized device authorized to use components mounted on a vehicle;

obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices;

30 storage means for storing therein information; and

storage control means for controlling said storage means, and in which

said storage devices includes an authorized storage device to be certified as being said authorized device, and a master storage device to be used to certify said authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

35 said certification apparatus includes obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices,

said certification means is operative to certify whether or not each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

5 said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device is not said authorized device under the condition that said storage means has already stored therein said identification information of said authorized storage device, and

 said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said authorized
10 storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device.

15. (Amended) A certification apparatus comprising:

 certification means for certifying whether or not each of a plurality of storage
15 devices each storing therein identification information is an authorized device authorized to use components mounted on a vehicle;

 obtaining means for obtaining said identification information stored in each of said storage devices;

 storage means for storing therein information; and

20 storage control means for controlling said storage means, and in which

 said storage devices includes first and second authorized storage devices each to be certified as being said authorized device, and a master storage device to be used to certify said first authorized storage device as being said authorized device,

25 said certification means is operative to certify whether or not each of said storage devices is said authorized device on the basis of said identification information of each of said storage devices obtained by said obtaining means and said information stored in said storage means,

30 said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device is not said authorized device under the condition that said storage means has already stored therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means,

35 said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said first authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said master storage device as being said authorized device, and

said storage control means is operative to control said storage means to have said storage means store therein said identification information of said second authorized storage device obtained by said obtaining means only under the condition that said certification means certifies said first authorized storage device as being said
5 authorized device.